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Identical letters dated 5 May 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter which represents the position of the Syrian Arab Republic on the thirteenth semi-annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) (S/2011/258) (see annex).

I would highly appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council before the discussion of this report by the Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 5 May 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

The references made in the report to the Syrian Arab Republic's efforts to implement the provisions of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) are an explicit acknowledgement that Syria has fulfilled all obligations incumbent on it under that resolution. It is therefore no longer acceptable for the Secretary-General to introduce Syria into his reports on the implementation of resolution 1559 (2004). The report notes not only that presidential and parliamentary elections took place in a free and fair manner in Lebanon (i.e., without foreign interference or influence), but also that Syria had withdrawn its troops and military equipment from Lebanon and established full diplomatic relations with Lebanon. The reference made in the report to joint efforts by Syria and Saudi Arabia to address the Lebanese political crisis is yet another indication that Syria is doing its utmost to preserve the security and stability of Lebanon.

Syria reiterates that it does not accept the references that were made in the report to the delineation of the Syrian-Lebanese border, which is a bilateral matter. It reaffirms that the real obstacle to the final delineation of the Syrian-Lebanese border is Israel's continued aggression and its occupation of the Syrian Golan and the Shab'a Farms. This occupation makes it impossible to delineate the border in those areas. The international community must take the steps required to compel Israel to withdraw from the Lebanese and Syrian territory which it occupies, in accordance with internationally recognized resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), and the principle of land for peace, in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Those who claim to care about Lebanon's stability and territorial integrity should also care about its security and independence. Therefore, effective pressure must be brought to bear on Israel in order to compel it to withdraw from the Lebanese territory it continues to occupy. Steps must be taken to prevent and put an end to Israeli violations.

The Palestinian presence in Lebanon is governed by Lebanese-Palestinian agreements which do not concern Syria. With respect to the Palestinian positions located along the Syrian-Lebanese border that are noted in the report, we reiterate that all those positions lie within Lebanese territory. Therefore, Syria will not intervene in this matter. We also reiterate that the primary reason for the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and other neighbouring States, including Syria, is the continued occupation by Israel of Palestinian territory and its refusal to implement United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 194 (III), which guarantees the Palestine refugees the right to return to the homes from which they were expelled.

The authors of the report should respect the independence and sovereignty of Lebanon and should not interfere in its internal affairs on any pretext whatsoever. They should also not continue to overlook that, in order to ensure Lebanon's security and stability, it is vital to deter Israel's continual violations and end its occupation of Lebanese territory.

We reaffirm that, if the international community wishes to play a positive role in Lebanon, it must act swiftly to put an end to the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory, which would bolster Lebanon's security and independence, and as a result, have a positive impact on Syria and the entire region.

Lastly, the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms its support for the stability and security of Lebanon, for its efforts to liberate the parts of its territory occupied by Israel, and for its territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative